

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 FPC-01 XMB-02

OPIC-03 AID-05 IGA-02 FEA-01 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 DODE-00 /043 W

-----065851 161451Z /43

R 160200Z DEC 77

FM AMCONSUL MEDAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 799

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 4092

SUBJECT: THE MOBIL VIEW OF ARUN LNG PROJECT SECURITY

REF: MEDAN 0490

1. THE MOBIL PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER FROM JAKARTA AND THE MOBIL/MEDAN EMPLOYEE RELATIONS OFFICER VISITED THE CONSULATE DEC. 15 FOR ASSISTANCE AND COORDINATION, WHICH THE CONSULATE WILL PROVIDE, IN EMERGENCY AND EVACUATION PLANNING FOR THE ARUN LNG PROJECT. THEY SAID THEIR OWN AND BECHTEL'S VISITING SECURITY OFFICERS WERE SATISFIED THAT AS MUCH OUTSIDE INDONESIAN SUPPORT FOR SECURITY IN THE FORM OF ARMED TROOPS AND INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AS COULD BE EXPECTED HAD BEEN OBTAINED IN THE WAKE OF THE NOV. 29 INCIDENT. THEY STILL NEEDED TO FOLLOW UP WITH SOME CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND BETTER SECURITY MEASURES OF THEIR OWN, NOT JUST FOR BECHTEL EMPLOYEE NEEDS, SINCE BECHTEL IS PHASING OUT RAPIDLY AS CONSTRUCTION NEARS COMPLETION AT LHOK SUKON, BUT ALSO FOR MOBIL'S LONG TERM PRESENCE AT THE COMPLETED PLANT AND FIELD SITES. MOBIL IS RECRUITING A FULL TIME EMPLOYEE TO HANDLE SECURITY BEGINNING IN EARLY 1978.

2. THESE MOBIL OFFICERS MENTIONED THAT THE PERTAMINA RELUCTANCE  
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TO ACCEPT ARMY OFFERS OF GREATER ASSISTANCE LAST AUGUST/ SEPTEMBER (SEE PARA 3, REFTTEL) WERE VERY MUCH CONDITIONED BY MOBIL'S WISHES ON THE SUBJECT. MOBIL HAD NOT WANTED A LARGE ARMED PRESENCE AT ARUN FOR FEAR OF CREATING MORE TROUBLES THAN IT SOLVED. MOBIL HAS NOW HAD TO GIVE IN TO BECHTEL'S WISHES ON THIS POINT BECAUSE OF THE NOV. 29 INCIDENT. WITH REGARD TO PAYMENT BY MOBIL/BECHTEL FOR THE

EXPENSES OF THESE ARMED TROOPS, THEY SAID THAT, IN THEORY AT LEAST, SIXTY FIVE PERCENT OF THE COST WILL ONE DAY BE RECOVERED FROM PERTAMINA, WHICH AT THE MOMENT IS TOO SHORT OF READY CASH FUNDS TO ASSIST IN A TIMELY FASHION.

3. QUESTIONED ABOUT PROTECTIVE MEASURES FOR THE WELLS AT THE LNG FIELD, THEY REPLIED THAT THE LATEST ENGINEERING METHODS FOR SHUTTING OFF WELLS IF THE WELL HEAD IS DESTROYED BY SOMETHING LIKE A GRENADE ARE INSTALLED AT LHOK SUKON. THE VALVE CLOSURE DESIGN IS BASED ON PREVIOUS EMERGENCY EXPERIENCE IN LIBYA. THERE IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG THE TECHNICIANS, HOWEVER, ON HOW WELL THE DESIGN WILL WORK IN PRACTICE, PARTICULARLY UNDER THE EXTRA STRONG PRESSURES OF ARUN GAS; THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE SYSTEM CAN BE TESTED SHORT OF A TRUE EMERGENCY. IT IS BELIEVED THAT ANY TERRORIST EFFORTS TO SET FIRE AT THE GAS FIELD WOULD BE UNLIKELY TO LEAD TO DAMAGE OF THE FIELD INSTALLATIONS THAT WOULD LEAD TO EXPLOSIONS.

4. FOR DAO JAKARTA: ONE OF THE QUESTIONS RAISED FOR E & E PLANNING WAS HOW BIG A PLANE COULD LAND ON THE FIELD (POINT A) AT LHOK SUKON AND WITH WHAT CAPACITY FOR CARRYING PASSENGERS AND GEAR. THE RUNWAY IS 750 METERS LONG AND HAS LANDING LIGHTS AND A RADIO BEACON. COULD YOU PROVIDE AN ANSWER ON THE BASIS OF US AIRCRAFT USED IN E & E SITUATIONS?

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## Message Attributes

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